



KENTUCKY EMS Today

Winter 1997 A Publication from the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Branch

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FROM THE KENTUCKY EMS BRANCH MANAGER:

Well, it's December again, the end of the year. The weather's turned colder and the days are decidedly shorter. The holidays are almost here. Where has all the time gone?

For many of us, the end of the year is the time to stop and reflect. Has it been a good year? Did I meet my goals for the year (personal, family, organizational)? What will I do different next year?

The next year, 1998, will certainly bring many new problems and opportunities. The Kentucky General Assembly will convene in early January. Will they make further changes in health care reform? What other legislative initiatives will surface that will affect EMS? How about the state budget for the next two years? In addition to legislative action, 1998 will see the further expansion of the Medicaid Managed Care Partnerships to more regions in the state. New training requirements,

OSHA mandates, changes in EMS regulations, and many other factors will impact on the ability of EMS personnel to do their jobs and serve their public.

Despite all the changes, one thing will remain the same. Thousands of committed Kentuckians will devote themselves to meeting the emergency medical services needs of their fellow citizens. EMTs, paramedics, other first responders, dispatchers, nurses, physicians, EMS educators, and many others will go about their everyday duties taking and responding to emergency calls, providing life saving medical treatment, and helping others to recover from their injuries or medical emergencies in order that our friends and neighbors may resume their normal lives.

On behalf of the staff of the Kentucky EMS Branch, we thank you and we salute you. We wish you the happiest and safest of holidays and best wishes for the new year. We appreciate your courage, professionalism, dedication, and service every day, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Congratulations on a job WELL DONE!

INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) PROGRAMS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES

The decade of the 1990s has seen significant developments in the sophistication and reliability of automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment coupled with markedly lowered costs of AEDs. In addition, nationally recognized groups such as the American Heart Association (AHA) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health have recommended that all emergency response vehicles be equipped with AEDs and personnel trained to operate AEDs. In view of these developments, many state and federal agencies have necessarily issued new regulations, laws, and guidelines to increase the availability and use of AEDs while still preserving the important principal of medical oversight and medical authorization for these life saving medical devices.

Within Kentucky, the Department for Public Health has the statutory authority to set training and practice standards for certified EMTs and EMT first responders (EMT-FRs). The Department does not have the authority to establish training standards for other emergency response personnel who are not certified EMTs or EMT-FRs.

Kentucky's administrative regulations were recently revised with regard to EMTs and EMT-FRs to set out minimum training and medical oversight requirements for use of AEDs. These new regulations became effective November 20, 1997. This new regulations (902 KAR 13:120) essentially "de-centralize" the AED program leaving the responsibility for overseeing that EMS personnel are adequately trained and using the AED equipment properly to the local physician medical director. There will no longer be a "state" prior approval process nor a "state" approved curriculum. Below are the key requirements contained in the new regulations:

- The EMT or EMT-FR must work (full time, part time, or volunteer) for a licensed class I ambulance service or an organization that has a written affiliation agreement with a class I ambulance service.
- The ambulance service or other organization which utilizes the EMT or EMT-FR must have a physician medical director who provides the necessary physician oversight and authorization to utilize the AED. That physician shall establish or approve AED utilization protocols and continuing education requirements pertaining to AED use and may deny authorization for AED utilization for cause.
- The EMT or EMT-FR must have completed an approved nationally recognized training program which incorporates standard training in the use of AEDs. Examples of such training include the 1994 EMT-Basic national standard curriculum, an approved EMT-B transition course based on the 1994 EMT-Basic national

standard curriculum, the American Heart Association's 1997 Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers course, and Chapter 20 of AHA's ACLS course.

- The EMT or EMT-FR must receive additional service specific training to provide orientation and familiarization with the specific AED equipment to be utilized by the employer and the AED utilization protocols approved by the authorization physician medical director.

With regard to response personnel who are not certified EMTs or EMT-FRs, the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure has approved "Guidelines for Physicians Involved in the Training or Supervision of Noncertified Individuals Utilizing Automated External Defibrillators" which include standards relating to the training and/or supervision of noncertified individuals. These guidelines are similar in many respects to the requirements for certified EMTs and EMT-FRs with the addition of evidence of CPR proficiency and familiarization with the community EMS system. A copy of these guidelines may be obtained from the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure or the Department for Public Health's Emergency Medical Services Branch. They are also available on the internet at the **Kentucky EMS Connection**.

In summary, the increased incorporation and use of AEDs by emergency responders can result in significant reductions in deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest as part of the "Chain of Survival." Early notification of emergency response agencies, early CPR, early AED, and early advanced life support care are each critical links in the chain. All emergency responders, whether EMS, fire, rescue, or law enforcement personnel, can contribute to this life saving effort and truly make a difference.

KENTUCKY EMS COUNCIL MEETINGS SET FOR 1998

The Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Council has set its tentative meeting schedule for 1998. The Council voted to continue its schedule of holding quarterly meetings approximately 3-4 weeks prior to the quarterly meetings of the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure since many Council recommendations are forwarded to the KBML. In addition, the Council also voted to hold quarterly meetings of its Steering/Legislative Committee in the month prior to each scheduled meeting of the full Kentucky EMS Council. The Steering/Legislative Committee will direct issues among the other standing committees of the Council and assist in establishing the agenda and workplan for the Council. Finally, the Kentucky EMS Council also established submission guidelines for documents which require Council review such as ALS protocols and paramedic training applications. The requisite number of copies of such documents must be submitted to the EMS Branch at least 30 days prior to the Council meeting. Materials submitted after the due date for a particular meeting will be deferred to the next scheduled meeting of the Kentucky EMS Council. Below is the meeting and submission calendar for 1998:

1998 Meeting Schedule:**KY EMS Council Meeting**February 24thMay 19thAugust 25thNovember 17th**Materials Submission Date**January 24thApril 19thJuly 25thOctober 17thSteering/Legislative
Committee Meeting

January 20, 1998

Depending on space availability, all meetings will be held in the Health Services Building or the Human Resources Building, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort. The Kentucky EMS Council normally meets at 1:30 p.m. while the Steering/Legislative Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. Please call the EMS Branch at (502)564-8963 for specific meeting times and locations.

As of the date of this newsletter, we have not received word on new appointments to the Kentucky EMS Council. All former members whose terms were to expire in September, 1997, have been requested to continue serving on the Council until they are either re-appointed or a replacement is made.

DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH REORGANIZATION AFFECTS EMS

Governor Paul E. Patton approved a plan to reorganize the Kentucky Department for Public Health effective October 16, 1997. Under the plan, the EMS Branch is transferred from the Division of Health Systems Development to the newly created Division of Adult and Child Health. Joining EMS in this new division are the following programs: Clinical Health Branch, Nutrition Branch, Drug Enforcement & Professional Practices Branch, and the Community Health Branch. The inclusion of the EMS Branch into this new Division of Adult and Child Health reflects and strengthens the medical orientation of the EMS program and recognizes the important role that EMS personnel and EMS providers play in the current and evolving medical care system. James S. Davis, MD, is the director of the Division of Adult and Child Health. Dr. Davis is a pediatrician who practiced for many years in Pike County before joining the Department for Public Health approximately two years ago. He has already attended the most recent meeting of the Kentucky EMS Council and is prepared to over-

see the EMS program with knowledge and enthusiasm.

We are already seeing potential benefits to the new divisional structure. We have easier access to clinical expertise of physicians, nurses, and pharmacists when questions come up about EMS medical protocols, drug utilization, or EMS clinical practice. We've already had our first meeting to identify EMS participation in other injury prevention programs that are part of the Division. Further collaboration in other clinical areas is possible such as planning to reduce the impact of sudden cardiac arrest (prevention as well as effective treatment systems).

Another effect of the DPH reorganization is the separation of our former Financial Support Section from the EMS Branch to the Division of Resource Management. This reflects the push to place all Department functions relating to fiscal and financial management into a single organization. Brenda Robinson, Judy Perry, and Sandy Whitis will continue to handle the day to day aspects of our contracts and grants, including the Senate Bill 66 program although they will report administratively to a separate division. Brenda has worked in the EMS program for all her state career of 26 years. While she says it feels a bit strange to not "officially" be part of the EMS program, she still sits in our midst, carries out the same duties, and is still part of the EMS family.

(Robert Calhoun)

During the last 4 months there have been many changes with the ALS section. In this article I will try to give you information and clarification to help you understand where we stand.

The October Paramedic Boards brought about some of our most drastic changes. We implemented the use of the testing mechanism from the National Registry of EMT-Paramedics for the first time. This brought about training for our evaluators and persons chosen to become National Registry Representatives for Kentucky. I would like to thank everyone for their time and effort put in to make this examination process a success. The retest for the boards will be January 16-17, 1998 due to policy changes that had to be made in the change over to NREMT-P testing. A BIG THANK YOU goes to Mr. Woodrow Wills, Kentucky Vocational Technical School of Elizabethtown, for his assistance with equipment needs on a very short notice during the paramedic boards.

This office is working hard to combine the dates of your EMT certification and your Paramedic certification. Those who have recertified this December will have their EMT certification done with their new paramedic card. We hope to have everyone else done by March. After you receive your new certification date you will automatically renew your EMT when you renew your paramedic. You will not send \$19.00 for your EMT, but you need to include your HIV/AIDS Training and CPR certificates when you send your paramedic paperwork. Anytime you send in paperwork of any kind for your EMT you will need to include your paramedic number for cross-reference.

I would like to express a personal THANK YOU to all the people who made arrangements for our recertification exam sites across the state. I hope in talking with you at the sites I was able to answer some of the questions you had.

ALS SERVICE NOTES

The Emergency Medical Services Council decided at it's November meeting that all training course applications, medical director requests, and protocol submissions must be in to the branch office a minimum of thirty (30) days before the council meeting for purpose of review.

It has been brought to the attention of the Branch that some ALS services have not procured the proper required DEA registration number required to carry controlled substances. You are reminded that each ALS service which stores and utilizes controlled substances is required to have it's policies and protocols approved by the Cabinet's Drug Control Branch. If you have concerns about this please contact the Drug Control Section for clarification. Their phone number is (502) 564-7985. The regional inspectors will be checking for this in the future.

Virginia "Ginny" Shumate
Paramedic Coordinator

Ambulance Service Actions

New Services:

Oldham County EMS
3713 W. Highway 146
LaGrange, KY 40031
Director: Robert Deibel
Phone: 502-222-7801
Effective Date: 10/01/97
Geographic Area: Oldham County

Licensed Ambulance Services

Ground	257
Air	10
Total	267

Vehicles

Ground Ambulances	1032
Rotary	12
Fixed-Wing	2
Total	1046

EMS REGIONAL ADVISOR/ INSPECTOR REPORTS...

NORTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGION

1. Activities since the last Newsletter:
 - 23 relicensing inspections
 - 12 inspections for additional vehicles
 - 6 inspections for replacement vehicles
 - 1 satellite location change
 - 3 complaint investigations
 - 2 EMT-NR written exams that I proctored
 - 2 consultation visits but many via telephone
2. **Oldham County EMS** began operating a paid service in their county. Volunteers are still used by other ambulance services within the county and also backup the paid service if additional runs occur.
3. Henry County is now operating a paid service 12 hours per day an utilizing volunteers the remainder of the time and as backup.
4. Training classes in my area included:
 - 16 EMT transition courses were started during this reporting period:

11 in Louisville	2 in Lebanon
1 in Carrollton	1 in Lexington
1 in Owenton	
 - 11 EMT Basic courses were started during this reporting period:

4 in Louisville	3 in Lexington
1 in Crestwood	1 in Elizabethtown
1 in Leitchfield	1 in Versailles
 - 3 Paramedic courses were started during this reporting period:
 - Hardin County Ambulance Service** in Elizabethtown
 - Lexington Fire Department Ambulance Service**
 - Yellow Ambulance Service** in Louisville

Please forward to me any information that you want included in the newsletter, thank you.

Bill Durrett
Regional Advisor/Inspector
North Central KY Region

NORTHERN KENTUCKY REGION

1. The following ambulance services have had new ambulance inspections in my area:
 - Crescent-Villa Fire Authority Ambulance Service**
 - Fort Mitchell Life Squad**
 - Frankfort Fire & EMS**
 - Georgetown-Scott County EMS**
 - Independence Fire District Ambulance Service**
 - Piner-Fiskburg Volunteer Fire Department Ambulance Service**
 - Point Pleasant Fire Protection District Ambulance Service**
 - Rural/Metro Ambulance**

2. **Georgetown-Scott County EMS** has added a satellite station to their existing service area effective August 7, 1997. The satellite is located at 2200 Cincinnati Road (US 25) in Georgetown.
3. **Grant County Ambulance Service** has moved their base station to the **Dry Ridge Fire Department** located at 17 Race Street in Dry Ridge effective September 16, 1997.
4. Mr. Ken Knipper has been named the DES Director for Campbell County.
5. Northern Kentucky ambulance services approved to add ALS at the EMS Council meeting held August 26th were:
 - Florence Fire & EMS**
 - Newport Fire & EMS**
 - Rural/Metro Ambulance**
6. EMT classes are being taught at **Erlanger Fire & EMS, Northern Kentucky Voc Tech, St. Luke and St. Elizabeth Hospitals**. Transitional courses are also being scheduled at various hospitals, fire departments, and ambulance services in Northern Kentucky. For more information call me at (502) 564-8161.
7. The **Northern Kentucky EMS Advisory Council** met on July 10th at **Florence Fire & EMS**, August 7th at **St. Luke Hospital East** and September 4th at Kenton County Courthouse regarding reports on BLS and ALS Protocols, and Standards of Communications.
8. Due to some Medicaid regional assignments Bracken County has now been returned to the Northeastern Regional Office.

David Lilly
Regional Advisor/Inspector
Northern Kentucky Region

WESTERN KENTUCKY REGION

Since the last newsletter, I have completed 9 annual ambulance service inspections, 8 replacement vehicle inspections, 2 advisory visits, 2 follow-up visits and 1 service upgrade visit.

In September, I traveled to Columbus with other EMS Branch staff to make preparations for Kentucky's first National Registry paramedic testing. We were very pleased at the willingness of the National Registry to work with us and the guidance they provided. This trip paved the way for October Boards.

I spent an additional 5 days in Frankfort working with Ginny Shumate on paramedic boards. Even the long hours of preparation did not fully prepare the staff for the kinks that always arise, especially in new situations. I was fortunate to be chosen as one of Kentucky's National Registry representatives along with Charlie O'Neal, Jeanne Ticknor and Dennis Robertson. We spent an entire day with Rob Wagoner (National Registry Advanced Level Certification Coordinator) in training. I learned more when Rob hosted the National Registry evaluator's training on the day before boards began. This training proved invaluable during boards. The next 2 days were spent testing paramedics under National Registry standards and, although given several obstacles, we did, in true EMS fashion, adapt and overcome!

As the EMS Branch representative on the Tiki Mast Board, I attended its October 25th meeting at Fort Campbell. Dates for the two-day Tiki Mast symposium are scheduled for April 3-4, 1998, at the Holiday Inn in Clarksville, TN. Plans are being made for continuing education credits to be given at this event. Watch for further details.

Also in October, I attended the West Kentucky EMS Association's October Fest held at Kentucky Tech in Paducah. Although attendance was down somewhat (due in large part to transition courses), the programs presented were of their usual high quality.

Then it was back on the road to Frankfort to attend the First Responder sub-committee meeting prior to the EMS Training Committee meeting. This committee is making progress toward having a revised Kentucky First Responder program as soon as possible. I also attended the Medical Standards Committee meeting as well as the EMS Council meeting on November 18th, and served as the National Registry representative for the written and practical exams for EMT-I's and EMT-P's at Fort Campbell on November 13th and 14th. This experience gave additional insight to testing at a national standard.

Other events in West Kentucky include:

1. The State CISD team responded to Paducah on December 1 to council EMS personnel involved in the tragedy shootings at Heath High School. Mercy Regional Emergency Medical Services were the primary responders along with help from the hospitals, area response teams and other ambulance services.
2. LifeFlight at Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville placed their 1997 Bell 407 helicopter into service at 1200 hrs. on November 30th. LifeFlight celebrates its 15th year in service by introducing this new aircraft. An Open House was held at Welborn Hospital Crescent Room on December 12th with tours of the new helicopter available.

On January 15th, 1998, from 1800-2100 hrs. a free evening seminar, LifeFlight Safety-A Team Approach will be offered with continuing education for EMT's, Paramedics and Emergency Services Personnel. A repeat presentation of this seminar will be offered on February 10th.

On March 25th, 1998, from 0730-1630 hrs., LifeFlight will offer March Madness, a full day continuing education program covering a wide range of topics in Emergency Medicine and Pre-hospital Care.

3. Carlisle County Emergency Ambulance Service offers continuing education credits each month on Tuesday evening, free and open to the public. Carlisle County is also working with their school on crisis planning, developing ways to ensure roads are clear for entrance and exit to the scene. Plans are being made for a drill in January, 1998. For more information, contact Carlisle County Emergency Ambulance Service at (502) 628-0248.
4. Providence Fire Department Emergency Medical Services has put into service a new ambulance purchased with SB 66 and LGD grant monies.
5. The Caldwell County Area Technology Center will be offering the EMT Basic class beginning Tuesday, January 20, 1998. The class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:30-9:30 p.m. For more information, contact Arthur Dunn at (502) 365-5563.
6. Todd County EMS has purchased an automatic external defibrillator with donated funds and a training/authorization program is being developed. Plans are to implement the program in January, 1998.
7. Henderson EMS inservices scheduled December to March are:
 - monthly inservices for First Responders and EMT's every second Thursday at 1800 hours
 - BTLS course scheduled for March 10, 11, 12, and 14, 1998 at Community Methodist Hospital in Henderson
 - EMT Basic Transition Course scheduled for

January 24, 31 and February 7, 1998, in Webster Co.

—Neo-Natal class is scheduled in January, 1998

—PALS class is scheduled in February, 1998

—ACLS class is scheduled for January and March, 1998

For more information, contact Daniel Carter at 1-800-495-7355.

8. The Marshall County Ambulance Service and Marshall County Hospital conducted a PALS class on November 1 & 2 with 25 students completing the class.

The Marshall County service continues to work with other area emergency agencies to implement the Calvert Area Early Warning System (CAEWS). This system consists of several sirens and voice boxes to be used during chemical accidents on roads or in plants. Plans are to eventually expand the capabilities for other disasters. Activation is through Marshall County 911.

Sharon Pierceall
Regional Advisor/Inspector
Western Kentucky Region

SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY REGION

1. South Central Kentucky Health Education Training Center completed the didactic segment of their paramedic class in November 1997.
2. Western Kentucky University Community College is developing an associate degree program for paramedics.
3. Monroe County Ambulance Service completed an EMT class in October and will conduct an EMT Transitional class in January 1998. The service is also doing the enhanced 911 mapping for the county.
4. McCreary County is in the process of mapping and addressing for Basic 911 service.
5. Somerset-Pulaski County Rescue Squad has purchased a 1998 International Rescue Truck with the Ferrara Fire and Rescue package.
6. Somerset-Pulaski County EMS has completed their third EMT Transitional class.
7. Region fifteen (15) Kentucky Tech implemented an EMT class in Stanford that started September 9, 1997.
8. Garrard County EMS plans to implement an EMT Transitional class in January 1998.
9. Boyle County Ambulance Service is sponsoring a national Safety Council First Responder Class, scheduled to begin on December 15, 1997.
10. Ephraim McDowell Hospital, Boyle County, recently completed their didactic portion of their Paramedic class.
11. McKinney Area Rescue Squad will be conducting Continuing Education classes starting January 1998. They will be offering CPR and a Defensive Driving class.
12. Barren-Metcalf County EMS in conjunction with T. J. Samson Hospital is in the process of implementing a Paramedic class anticipated to start in the early part of 1998.
13. T. J. Samson Hospital has purchased and donated four (4) Life-Pak Eleven Heart Monitors to Barren-Metcalf County EMS. The hospital has broken ground for major renovation to include a complete new Emergency Department with a helicopter pad complete with deicing capabilities.

Rick Strunk
Regional Advisor/Inspector
South Central Kentucky Region

SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY REGION

1. Mountain EMS in Harlan has relocated to 117 North Cumberland Avenue and upgraded to ALS effective 10/7/97. They also implemented a "Home for the Holiday's Program" whereby nursing home patients are provided free transportation on Thanksgiving and Christmas so they can spend time with their families.
2. Cutshin Vol. Fire & Rescue Dept., Inc. recently added an ambulance for a total of two (2) vehicles.
3. Estill County EMS sponsored a Toy Drive for Christmas to benefit the needy children of Estill County.
4. Res-Q Ambulance, Inc.-Whitesburg has relocated to 112 North Webb Street in Whitesburg effective 11/21/97.
5. Knox County EMS is Preparing for their annual "Home for Christmas Project", now in it's fourth year they provide free transportation on Christmas Day to nursing home residents so they can be home with their families.
6. Letcher Vol. Fire & Rescue Ambulance Service recently upgraded to ALS effective 9/30/97.
7. Middlesboro Fire Dept. Ambulance Service recently purchased a new ambulance.
8. The Harlan County EMS Task Force Committee continues to hold meetings to evaluate EMS development for Harlan County.
9. Appalachian Regional Hospital, Hazard, continues to hold regional EMS development meetings.
10. Mountain Lifeline Ambulance Service has finished one (1) EMT class and started another, held three (3) Transitional courses, had two (2) Blood Drives, worked in conjunction with their local Wal-Mart on a "Toys for Tots" project, taught a first aid class for the local Boy Scouts, and held a class on December 6, for one hundred and twenty (120) Girl Scouts on emergency preparedness. They hold weekly CEU classes and have added seven (7) ACLS nurses to their staff.
11. The Eastern Kentucky Ambulance Providers Association was formed to provide a greater voice for ambulance providers in eastern Kentucky. What started as a coalition to prepare for the new Medicaid Managed Care Arena, evolved into a full blown association, after the coalition members realized we had much more to deal with in the Ambulance industry than just Managed Care. As many as fourteen (14) Ambulance Services have attended the association meetings and the membership for E.K.A.P.A. has continued to grow. We want to look at the common problems in Eastern Kentucky and provide the leadership to guarantee a successful future for all our Ambulance Services. Anyone interested in receiving additional information on the Association can contact E.K.A.P.A.'s President, James Hacker at (606) 878-6300 or Secretary Mike Mason at (606) 593-5849.

David Williams
Regional EMS Advisor/Inspector
Southeastern Kentucky Region

TRAINING ISSUES

TRAINING AGENCIES

Several issues of importance need to be shared with approved Training Implementing Agencies, whether for EMT First Responder, Basic or Paramedic training programs.

1. **Criminal Background of Student Applicants** It is **strongly** recommended that EMS Training Agencies address this question in the application process. The Training Agency is encouraged to provide information to the applicant about certification requirements and that certain convictions could negatively impact one's eligibility for KY certification. The agency may recommend that concerned applicants submit a written inquiry to the EMS Branch accompanied by copies of court records, and request guidance from the EMS Branch before completing their decision about enrolling in a course. In addition to the application process, another place that this information could be emphasized early in the course is to remind the course instructor to also provide information regarding criminal background concerns during the lesson addressing legal issues. The EMS Branch is receiving increasing numbers of certification applicants who are expressing discontent with their Training Agencies because of not being made aware that their having a criminal background could potentially create problems for the applicant when applying for certification.

2. **The Americans with Disabilities Act** The Implementing Agency may allow accommodations during the EMT training that may be different from the "reasonable accommodations" allowed for KY Certification Examinations. Reference the enclosed **INTERPRETIVE GUIDELINES** for handling accommodation requests for the KY EMT Basic Certification Practical Skills and Written Examinations. **Please remind the course instructor to provide copies of this document to enrolled students during the first lesson when introductory information and course materials are provided to each student.** If there is potentially an enrolled student who will make a request for an accommodation, such written requests should be made early in the course in order for the student to have had a written response returned to them prior to scheduled certification examinations.

3. **Future Plans** By the beginning of the next Fiscal Year, starting July 1, 1998, the EMS Branch will start providing only **One Master Set of Course Materials for training and certification purposes to the approved training agency for its scheduled EMT Basic Courses for the upcoming year. It will be the responsibility of the training agency to make the necessary copies of materials for use by the instructors in the agency EMT Basic courses. The EMS Branch will provide additional copies if any materials are updated, or if new materials are developed.**

EMT FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

EMS Branch staff are still in the process of revising course materials so that the materials will correspond to the Brady 4th edition of the EMT First Responder text used in the current KY EMT First Responder curriculum. Additionally, the KY EMT First Responder curriculum and regulations are being reviewed for revision and implementation at a later date.

(Marcia Burklow)

Basic Courses The EMT regulations are continuing to be reviewed for revision regarding EMT Basic training and certification.

Transition Courses Agencies may accept non-KY certified EMTs (certified in another state) into their Transition Courses. This may be a Challenge candidate preparing to take the KY challenge examination for KY EMT Basic certification who had not completed update training in their state where certified, and they need to complete a KY Transition Course before being eligible to take the Practical Skills portion of the KY certification examination. Additionally, for the same reasons the approved agency may accept previously KY certified individuals whose certification has expired less than two years, in order for the candidate to be eligible to take a KY challenge examination for KY certification.

AED Courses The new regulations are now in effect. Early in 1998, a mailing of the new regulations will go to all existing approved AED Coordinating agencies. Others may obtain a copy upon written request and fee to cover copying and mailing costs.

(Marcia Burklow)

CERTIFICATION ISSUES

EMT BASIC

As a reminder, individuals initially certifying in KY must be registered with the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) as an eligibility requirement for KY EMT certification. Those who are Nationally Registered and meet other KY requirements will be eligible to be issued a KY EMT certification certificate. **REMEMBER, THE NREMT REGISTRATION CARD IS NOT A CANDIDATE'S KY CERTIFICATION CARD! One is not authorized to practice as a KY certified EMT BASIC until one has received their KY certification card.** KY EMTs initially certified effective July 15, 1997 will be required to meet NREMT renewal requirements as one of the requirements for KY EMT Basic certification renewal.

The EMS Branch is no longer authorizing EMT Basic Certification Examinations by the 1984 D.O.T. National Standard Curriculum. The candidate shall have completed a Transition Course, or its equivalent, and successfully pass the KY Practical Skills and Written Certification Examinations based on the **1994 D.O.T. National Standard Curriculum**

A PREVIOUSLY KY CERTIFIED EMT BASIC whose certification has expired may have two years from the expiration date to complete eligibility requirements (submit a letter of request to the EMS Branch and

complete a Refresher Course - The KY Transition Course is equivalent) to successfully complete the KY Certification Practical Skills and Written examinations for KY EMT Basic Certification. THIS IS A CORRECTION TO A MISINTERPRETATION PRINTED IN THE FALL NEWSLETTER. KY DOES HAVE A RE-ENTRY PROCESS, BUT DUE TO MEETING NREMT REQUIREMENTS, THE PREVIOUS 5-YEAR TIME FRAME FOR ELIGIBILITY HAS BEEN TO A 2-YEAR WINDOW. After Two years previous KY EMT Basic certification expiration, if the candidate has not successfully completed certification requirements, they shall repeat an EMT Basic course before eligibility to take the certification examinations.

(Marcia Burklow)

EMT PARAMEDIC

The Paramedic Certification Examination re-test is scheduled for January 16 & 17, 1998 at the Lexington Fire Department Fire Training Center in Lexington, KY. Again, the Examination will utilize the National Registry of EMTs Paramedic Practical Skills and Written Examinations. Information shall have already been mailed to individual candidates and course coordinators by the publication of this newsletter.

If you have questions you may contact Ginny Shumate, EMS Branch staff coordinator for Paramedic training and certification, at 502/564-8963.

PARAMEDIC REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY TO TEACH EMT BASIC CONTINUING EDUCATION Present regulations authorize a KY Certified Paramedic to teach EMT Basic continuing education. In exception, however, the Paramedic is required to successfully complete a KY Transition Course if the Paramedic serves as assistant faculty in conducting a KY EMT Transition Course.

(Marcia Burklow)

FUTURE MEETINGS / CONFERENCES:

January 10, 1998 KY Association of EMT Instructors Association (K.E.M.T.I.A.) Executive Board Meeting in Elizabethtown. Details regarding exact location and time will be mailed to Board members by K.E.M.T.I.A. secretary.

February 7, 1998 KY EMT Instructor Trainers. Details regarding exact location and time will be mailed to members by the KY EMT Instructor Trainer Coordinator.

April 3, 4&5, 1998 Details regarding exact location and times will be mailed to KY EMT Instructors by the K.E.M.T.I.A. secretary

(Marcia Burklow)



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas,
 When all through the nation
 Not a creature was stirring,
 except in the station.
 The units were parked in the shed with care,
 The spine boards, jump kits, and bandages were there;
 The crew was all settled in front of the TV,
 With visions of coffee consumed by IV.
 The Captain in his chair,
 With his cap in his lap,
 Had just settled in for a long winter's nap.
 When up on the wall there rang such a clatter,
 I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
 Away to the unit I flew like a flash,
 Tore open the doors and got in fast.
 The flashing lights on the new fallen snow
 Gave the night an eerie glow,
 When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
 My partner in front shifting the unit in gear,
 He was quite a driver, so lively and quick,
 In our red jump suits, we looked like St. Nick.
 More rapid than eagles out of the station we came,
 Looking for street signs and calling them by name:
 "Now, Broadway! now, Main! now, Conner and Dixon!
 There's Lake!
 There's Murray! I believe its the next one!
 To the top of the porch and along the wall
 Christmas lights were flashing, one thousand in all.
 "Please hurry, please hurry, please hurry you all!"
 As fast as we could, we gathered our gear,
 The lady was crying, and I could see her fear,
 So up to the house quickly we flew,
 Pulling our stretcher with our jump kit too.

And then in a twinkling, with my eyes I was seeing,
 A boy, not yet five, unresponsive, not breathing.
 As I drew near to the bed, I turned around,
 Through the door my partner came with a bound.
 We began our assessment, from his head to his foot,
 And, on the lad's cheek my hand I put.
 Feeling warmth, not cold, color pink, not blue,
 I performed the ABC's, and took his pulse too.
 The candy he had held tight in his teeth,
 Had stuck in his throat, and not allowed him to breathe.
 I rolled him over on his side on the bed,
 With a wink of my eye and a twist of my head,
 Soon gave his mom to know she had nothing to dread
 Four pats on the back made the candy fly,
 Out of the boy's mouth in the twinkling of an eye.
 Suddenly his dimples again were merry,
 His cheeks like roses, his face quite cheery!
 His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
 His head on the pillow as pure as the snow;
 We spoke not a word, but went straight back to our work,
 As we started to leave, I turned with a jerk,
 And laying my finger beside the boy's nose
 I tickled his ribs and I tickled his toes;
 He laughed and he giggled, and after a pause,
 Said so softly, "I love you Santa Clause".
 With a lump in my throat,
 and eyes too teary to see,
 I knew then, why I became an EMT.
 As we pulled out of the drive,
 and drove out of sight,
 I said to myself,
 "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

By Gary Bevill with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore.

To all who make EMS work in Kentucky: From the EMS Branch Office Staff

Glenn Lewis
 Pat Brown
 Sharon Pierceall
 Judy Perry
 Sandy Whitis
 Brenda Robinson
 Rick Strunk
 Robbie O'Brian
 Steve Sayre
 Ginny Shumate
 Wayne King
 Betty Tackett
 David Lilly
 David Williams
 Randy Warner
 Shirley Luther
 Bob Calhoun
 Gary Bevill
 Martha Crabtree
 Janet Skelton
 Marcia Burklow

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The information listed below reflects disciplinary actions taken by the Cabinet since publication of the last EMS Newsletter (Fall 1997). It does not include pending actions or actions that are under appeal. This information is intended as a public notice of final actions taken. It may not reflect all of the factors involved in the action such as a certificant's complete criminal or disciplinary history, severity of the violation, or other mitigating factors. This listing should not be used to judge or assess a particular action by the Cabinet against a particular infraction or act of misconduct.

PROBATIONARY CERTIFICATES

Emmert, Tara, EMT certificate #43180, Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from June 30, 1997 until June 30, 2000 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(20)(a) and (b) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

Glass, Jerry D. II, EMT certificate #40410, Vine Grove, Kentucky. Certification was placed on probation effective December 1, 1997 through March 1, 1998 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(15) and (20)(b) for falsifying an application for certification by failing to report previous convictions of a felony or misdemeanor.

Jarvis, Ronnie, EMT certificate #42660, Central City, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from June 30, 1997 until June 30, 1999 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(20)(b) due to a history of traffic violations.

Jones, David, EMT certificate #27014, Russellville, Kentucky. Certification was placed on probation effective October 3, 1997 through October 3, 1998 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(5)(b) for failure to follow the appropriate standards of care in the management of a patient. Probationary period was reduced to two (2) months ending December 1, 1997, after the EMT had completed additional continuing education and training to satisfy the conditions of the probationary period.

Looney, Thomas James, EMT certificate #42663, Greenville, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from June 30, 1997 until June 30, 1999 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(20)(b) due to a history of traffic violations and conviction of a misdemeanor.

Marcum, Steve, EMT certificate #39954, Smiths Grove, Kentucky. Certification was placed on probation effective October 3, 1997 through October 3, 1998 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(5)(b) for failure to follow the appropriate standards of care in the management of a patient.

Richards, Kathleen Marie, EMT certificate #42101, Barboursville, West Virginia. Placed on probationary status from December 1, 1997 until June 30, 1998 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090,

Section 1(20)(a) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

Wells, Salina R., EMT certificate #42648, Blaine, Kentucky. Placed on probationary status from May 30, 1997 through May 30, 1999 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090 Section 1(20)(b) due to a conviction of a misdemeanor.

RESTRICTED EMT CERTIFICATE

Hurley, Oliver B., EMT certificate #43165, Middlesboro, Kentucky. Issued restricted employment certificate with the coal industry from June 30, 1997 through June 30, 1999 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(1) and (20)(b) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

REVOKED EMT CERTIFICATE

Lezu, Eric S., EMT certificate #41327, Flatwoods, Kentucky. Certification revoked effective October 13, 1997 pursuant to 902 KAR 13:090, Section 1(20)(a) and (b) due to a conviction of a felony or misdemeanor.

SUSPENDED EMT CERTIFICATIONS

The following certificates have been suspended due to the persons issuing a check for a certificate on an invalid account or an account which does not have sufficient funds to pay the fee. A person whose certificate has been suspended may not be employed as an EMT, function as an EMT, nor wear any insignia or labels which would imply to the public that he or she is an EMT:

Brown, Steven T., EMT #42523, Middlesboro, Kentucky.

Reardon, James P. III., EMT #38590, Delaware, Ohio.

Stroup, Mel, EMT #42597, Murray, Kentucky.

White, Patrick, EMT #37876, Pikeville, Kentucky.

Wilburn, Shawna L., EMT #42478, Ashland, Kentucky.

Note: During this reporting period, the EMS Branch denied initial EMT-first responder certification to an individual who had a very serious drug conviction in 1996, along with a couple other minor convictions prior to that. With this kind of record, this person should have been told to check with the EMS Branch regarding eligibility for certification before being allowed to take EMT training. Again, we are encouraging training agencies to provide this information on this issue as part of the application process and we ask the instructors to notify all their students of the certification requirements early in the course. It is very important for potential students to have this information as early as possible in order to avoid negative feelings against an agency that waited until the course was nearly completed before sharing this information.

The Electronic Superhighway is here!

Effective with the next issue of *Kentucky EMS Today*, we must act more responsible with your tax dollars. Therefore we will purge our mailing list.

We will continue to send hardcopies to:

Ambulance Services,
EMS Organizations,
Approved Training Agencies,
County Judges, etc.

The newsletter should be available at one of these places for your inspection. This will be all others last issue. We hate to say good-bye. All is not lost, many of you have access to the internet and the EMS Branch has a web page. The newsletter will be posted in the Acrobat format and can be downloaded and printed by anyone with internet access.

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/ems.htm>

Wayne King

DEADLINE

The next *Kentucky EMS Today* deadline for submission of copy to the EMS office in Frankfort will be **March 6, 1998**. For more information contact **Wayne King, (502) 564-8963** or wking3@mail.state.ky.us by E-Mail.

Rice C. Leach, MD, Commissioner
Department for Public Health
Robert Calloun, Manager
Emergency Medical Services Branch

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